Compensation to gas tragedy victims

† 3898. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amount for compensation provided by Union Carbide for resettlement with regard to Bhopal Gas tragedy still remains with Government of India;

(b) if so, the purpose for which this amount has been reserved; and

(c) whether the said amount will be made available for the projects being implemented by M.P. Government for the benefit of gas victims?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The amount is lying with the Reserve Bank of India in the name of the Welfare Commissioner.

(b) This amount is being utilized for settlement of claims of the gas victims on pro-rata basis as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 19th July, 2004.

(c) No, Sir. In its judgement dated 19th July, 2004, the Supreme Court has directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse the unspent amount only to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis.

Bio-Fertilizer Production

3899. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Bio-fertilizers in the country, by PSUs/Private Companies as on 31.12.2004, State-wise;

(b) whether there is self-sufficiency in bio-fertilizers; and

(c) if not, the steps Government have taken/propose to take to augment the production of bio-fertilizers in the country, in view of the increase in demand for these products?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The production of bio-fertilizers in the country is monitored on annual basis. The total production of bio-fertilizers in the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.